

CONECUH COUNTY

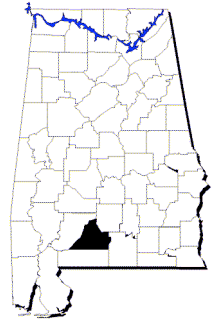
Honorable Jeffrey T. Brock

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Council Priorities

1. Parental Involvement

In many areas parental involvement in the child's life is an issue. The Council must continue, through its programs at the Resource Center and programs at county agencies to promote the parent's involvement in each aspect of the Child's life. If every effort is not made to do so, then the cycle continued to repeat itself.

2. Health Education

Many issues such as teen pregnancy, drugs, and safety are directly related to knowledge our children have or should have about health issues and as a Council we must address these issues and develop programs to address them..

3. Early Care and Education

It is essential that children be provided day care and early (k-4) education. Our county does not have adequate day care facilities or funding to provide sufficient k-4 classes for all children who wish to enroll.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

School readiness 0-5

Action Steps

- 1) Secure grant funding for school readiness programs.

Lack of availability of child care

Action Steps

- 1) Research grants and industry funding for day cares.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Lack of jobs

Action Steps

- 1) Promote our county by showing strength of our Council and Resource Center.

Work ethics of work force

Action Steps

- 1) Continue programs such as parenting classes, which are already in place. The classes address not only good parenting skills but parental responsibility, which includes steady employment.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Drop out rate

Action Steps

- 1) Establish a committee to work with the Board of Education to identify reasons for drop out and develop programs to address those issues.

School pride

Action Steps

- 1) Educate community about the successes within the county school system.
- 2) Work toward increased statistical improvements.

Parental involvement

Action Steps

- 1) Educate parents about the importance of their involvement in their child's education.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Health education

Action Steps

- 1) Make application for a grant that will allow for education about general health issues.

Substance abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Provide resource manual listing availability of services for prevention and treatment, both on a county and state level.

Teen pregnancy

Action Steps

- 1) Work towards developing after school programs for teens, making parents a component of any program offered.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Single parent homes

Action Steps

- 1) Seek funding for Fatherhood Initiative Programs, thereby encouraging the participation of the absent father in the child's life.

Parenting education

Action Steps

- 1) Continue with parenting classes which are now being offered.
- 2) Expansion of existing parenting classes to include classes for custodial grandparents.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Abuse and neglect

Action Steps

- 1) Promote and expand existing Parent Project Program.
- 2) Regular education updates to inform reporting agencies about the laws requiring them to report.
- 3) Promote public education during April and informing the public about how and where to report child abuse.

Anger management

Action Steps

- 1) Education of youth at an earlier age regarding anger management by developing a program targeted at a younger age groups.

School safety

Action Steps

- 1) Assist and support the Board of Education in identifying issues.
- 2) Support grant applications by Board of Education to improve school safety.

Policy Recommendations

- As teacher units and funding are directly related to the number of students enrolled in any given school, make it mandatory that children must attend school within the county in which they live.
- Make funding availability so that every county can have adequate K-4 programs and accept all students who wish to attend not just on a first come first serve basis.